

8/13/76

Dear Jim,

Thanks for the thoughtfulness.

As you seem to have guessed I am even busier, with the added time taken by FOIA cases of which I have three in court right now. Much preparation!

You were close at Damascus. But you were also right to put first things first. Taking and passing the bars was first. Hope you sailed through!

Get used to traffic circles. They are less nauseating than those of the law. Besides, there really are none in Arlington.

The Washington experience would be very good for you.

However, do not underestimate the importance of just being a good, honest lawyer available to people who are in need.

While I doubt I'd want to do it when it is so lovely here, as it is this time of the year, with the first freeze I can dream of the Gulf coast.

It will probably be no more than a dream.

The phlebitis was heavy. My own doctor still has not told me the extent or the permanence of the damage in both legs. I do travel but only when I must. Planes are the least of the problem. Getting to and from them is. No bus from here and it is 60 miles. I don't drive that far because it makes the blood puddle in the feet.

But I stay busy and productive. Your father, who is my age, is right. For a productive life 63 is not old. And he ought not retire while he is able to function well. Because of the accumulation of experience he is probably a better lawyer now than when he was of a more vigorous physical capability.

The government waited until my lawyer went abroad for four weeks to dump a whole mess of perjuries and falsely-sworn affidavits on me. I'll have to write a book for him before he returns so I must now get back to that.

Thanks and best wishes.

Last time I was down there is the last time we met.

If it ever is possible again - and I believe it will be only if I am paid to make a speech - I'd love to relax on the coast.

Sincerely,